Additional quantity demand of coal and Natural Gas of Maharashtra

† 2374. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has demanded more coal and natural gas from the Centre in order to meet the power shortage in the State which is presently 2900 to 3000 MW;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering on the matter and by when the additional quantity of coal and natural gas would be supplied; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra has not demanded more coal for its coal-based Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) since the supply of coal to TPSs has been adequate.

However, Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MSPGCL) has been requesting Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to supply gas as per the contracted quantity. MSPGCL has an agreement with GAIL for getting a supply of 3.5 Million metric Standard Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD). GAIL has been supplying gas at an average of 2.5 MMSCMD, which is further reduced to 1.31 MMSCMD since 29th November, 2005 due to shut down of NQO of Mumbai offshore.

As per GAIL, the additional supply of gas to power sector can be augmented only through additional availability of gas expected from ONGC offshore source and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sources presently planned by Petronet LNG Ltd. at Dahej terminal. GAIL has plans to lay a pipeline from Dahej to Uran for supply of Regasified LNG which may also be beneficial in bridging the demand-supply gap of natural gas in Maharashtra.

Status of Raudwa Thermal Power Plant in Jharkhand

† 2375. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.